

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 11/06/2025 06:20 PM

Council File No: 25-1225

Comments for Public Posting: please post



Nov. 6, 2025

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St.,
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

Dear President Harris-Dawson and members of the Los Angeles City Council,

Over the past 10 months, severe federal budget cuts delivered devastating blows to affordable housing, homelessness funding and services that serve those most in need. Especially in this context, it is alarming that the City Attorney has now requested over \$12 million dollars for additional outside counsel resources (report no. R25-0523 by the Office of the City Attorney, dated October 17, 2025).

This request includes an additional \$850,000 to fight the Venice Dell Community, which is in addition to the \$620,000 already spent to oppose the project. This exorbitant use of funds further exacerbates the City's dire budget, as well as our housing crisis. Worse still, the City Attorney filed suit against the non-profit developers, accusing them of failing to build the very project the City has been blocking. This is no longer about just killing Venice Dell, but upending two longstanding and successful affordable housing developers who have provided high-quality housing and services in LA for decades. The City is facing damages over \$10 million to avoid building a desperately needed and long-promised housing development it already agreed to build. Legal responses from the City have all failed to date, yet the funding requests continue.

Killing the Venice Dell Community will also have serious consequences for the City. As noted in a letter of from the State's Housing Accountability Unit, should the City decide to further delay and deny the Venice Dell Community, it may be found to be acting in opposition to the City's approved Housing Element, which would initiate reconsideration of the City's Prohousing Designation status. Penalties could include a loss of state funding for affordable housing, monthly fines, a loss of local control over building and zoning decisions, court-ordered compliance, and much more.

We urge you to reject this unconscionable request from the City Attorney and protect Los Angeles' integrity, fiscal health, and commitment to inclusive housing.

Sincerely,

Scott Epstein

Scott Epstein
Director of Policy and Research

Abundant Housing LA

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Fideicomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre

November 5, 2025

Dear Councilmembers,

This year, many of our organizations and partners have faced a series of significant challenges impacting our communities and industries — from destructive fires, to reductions in Federal funding, to an overextended City budget, and other setbacks affecting the social safety nets that support Angelenos.

Given these ongoing challenges, it is concerning that the City Attorney's Office has requested over \$12 million in additional funding for outside counsel (report no. R25-0523, dated October 17, 2025).

This request includes an additional \$850,000 to fight the Venice Dell Community, which is in addition to the \$620,000 already spent to fight the Venice Dell Community. This exorbitant use of funds further exacerbates both the City's dire budget and housing crises. Worse still, the City Attorney filed suit against the non-profit developers, accusing them of failing to build the very project the City has been blocking. This is no longer just about killing Venice Dell, but upending two long standing and successful affordable housing developers who have provided high quality housing and services in LA for decades. The City is facing damages over \$10 million to avoid building a desperately needed and long-promised housing development it has already agreed to build. Legal responses from the City have all failed to date, yet the funding requests continue.

At a time when resources are already stretched thin, it is important to consider the potential long-term implications of decisions related to the Venice Dell Community. According to the State's Housing Accountability Unit, further delays or denials of the project could place the City in conflict with its approved Housing Element, potentially putting its Prohousing Designation at risk. Such an outcome could result in the loss of affordable housing funds, financial penalties, limits on local land use authority, and other state-enforced corrective actions.

We urge you to reject this unconscionable request from the City Attorney and protect Los Angeles' integrity, fiscal health, and commitment to inclusive housing. Your leadership is vital to ensure that Los Angeles remains a city for all — one that upholds its promises, invests in affordable housing, and uses taxpayer dollars responsibly.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gonzalez
Executive Director